

The Union and its Friends.
The designation of country "The United States of America," is so termed in all official documents. It is frequently referred to under the general and comprehensive name of "America,"—thus implying to us, as a nation, pre-eminence in the New World. It is also spoken of as "the American Republic," or as "the American Confederacy." At home, among our politicians, it is called "The Union." But all these terms express the idea of a people united by common ties of interest, of kindred, and of political feeling,—of a people having a common ambition, and pressing onward in the accomplishment of great national desires.

We are, whatever section agitators may say to the contrary, one people, one nation. Our history, our progress, our achievements in war, in the arts and sciences, are common inheritance. No one, therefore, can rightly claim the name of an American patriot who is not proud to call himself an American citizen, and who is not heartily devoted to the preservation of the Union, and the perpetuation of the Government under the Constitution framed by the founders of the Republic. We have lived nearly three quarters of a century under that constitution, and prospered beyond all human calculation. The Union, therefore, has been the source of countless blessings, and no friend of human progress can desire its destruction. We believe that the people in all the States realize the value of the Union, and are sincerely and patriotically attached to it. They may differ, and do differ, as to questions of public policy. They may disagree in opinion regarding the acts of the Federal Government, or regarding its duty in some matters of domestic or foreign concern, but upon the great question of maintaining the union of the States they are thoroughly united. If the question were presented to the people of the United States, "Shall the Union be maintained, or shall it be dissolved?" the vote would be almost unanimous against a separation of the States. We doubt if there is a single locality in which it would be safe for men to appear at the polls with dissenting tickets.

Why, then, is there a cry that the Union is in danger? Why do we hear from the halls of Congress, that disruption and civil strife are possible and even probable eventualities? It is because professional politicians and heated partisans seize upon the rash acts and foolish declarations of some misguided fanatics, to excite the public mind and make a party of their own. There are enemies of the Union scattered over the country, but they are a contemptible minority, and derive much of their importance from the attention which is paid to their importunate ravings. The great heart of the people is not affected by their seditious teachings; and the sound conservatism and manly patriotism of the people should be so manifested that the promoters of discord and the agitators of division shall be silenced.

An "American" Undertaking.
"THE OXON" is an exceedingly powerful picture, representing the interior of a convent—now on exhibition at Weston's Gallery, 765 Broadway. It is by BARVARD, and has been painted, not so much to exhibit his power as an artist, as to produce a work that would make a fine picture as an engraving. Within the past few years, art has made rapid strides in this country. A fine picture is now produced, there is usually a great demand among the lovers of art for copies on paper, either lithographed or in line. The belief that these copies could not be produced at home, has led to sending them—invariably—to Europe, to be copied. And yet we have in this country engravers, lithographers, and printers equal to any in Europe.

THE OXON, we are pleased to learn, is to be executed in oil colors by Messrs. BARVARD, MAJOR, and KNAPP, of this city, who pledge themselves to produce a copy of the painting, which, as a specimen of oil color printing, shall equal anything ever produced in this country, and equal the best ever executed abroad, and at a small cost. What this difference in cost amounts to will be better understood, when we state that CHURCH'S XIAMARA, with 1,200 proofs, was published at \$60 each for proofs, and \$100 each for prints, while "THE OXON" is to be published at \$10 each for proofs, and \$40 each for prints.

Important Telegrams Enterprise.
MR. CHARLES M. STENNIS and his associates of the Western Union Telegraph Company, are engaged in a telegraph enterprise of great importance. In connection with parties on the Pacific side and under the patronage of the New York Associated Press, the Sacramento Union and San Francisco Bulletin, they have commenced and are actively carrying forward the construction of a telegraph line from St. Louis to San Francisco. The line on the east end has been completed for nearly three hundred miles west of St. Louis, on the route of the Overland Mail, and about two hundred and fifty miles on the west end from San Francisco.

The Associated Press have undertaken to pay the contractors a sufficient sum for semi-weekly reports of all important news, to justify them in going forward at once with the line, a sufficient distance from each side, to bring New York and San Francisco within six days of each other. It is hoped that with Government or other aid, the contractors will be enabled to run the line through within a year. These contractors are also building, under the patronage of the Associated Press, a line to Salt Lake, and it is already in good working order to Atlantic, in Kansas.

These new arrangements for the benefit of our readers involve very heavy expenditures, but we anticipate that they will be appreciated by the public. It is a pleasing reflection, now that telegraphic enterprise rises superior to every difficulty, that the New York Sun was foremost in maintaining it in its infancy, and has been its foremost supporter ever since.

A Fat Job.
A report was presented yesterday at the meeting of the Board of Supervisors, regarding the printing and binding of the public records, which shows how the money goes from the City Treasury. The Commissioners of Record have spent \$400,000, and have not nearly completed their work. They tried to get an additional appropriation in the last Tax Bill, but failed, and it is understood that they intend to apply to the Legislature at its next session to have the sum legislated, inserted in this year's Tax Levy. Perhaps the disclosure that they have paid more than four times as much for binding volumes of records as the work could have been contracted for, will prevent their success and cause a repeal or modification of the law under which they acted.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Mr. Koss presented a bill to amend the act relating to the duties of the United States Marshal, and to provide for the appointment of a United States Marshal for each of the several States.

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